

WARNING TO TEXAS STATE LEGISLATORS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Texas Department of Public Safety has issued a stern safety warning to members of the Texas legislature living near the southern border: Remove your car license plates that say "State official" on them. Texas legislators were warned to remove their identifying car license plates because of threats from Mexican drug cartels. Based on intelligence estimates from information they have received, law enforcement cautioned that the drug cartels may target members of the Texas legislature for assaults and kidnappings, especially those living on the border region. Some of the members and their staffs have removed those "State official" license plates and some are seeking concealed carry permits. There have been earlier reports of Mexican officials being assaulted and kidnapped by the cartels in Mexico. Now the threats have crossed to our side of the porous border region.

Now it seems to me the National Guard is probably better suited to deal with the violent narco-terrorists than a bunch of legislative staffers with concealed weapons—even in Texas.

And that's just the way it is.

ESOP PROMOTION AND EXPANSION ACT

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. This week, representatives from employee-owned S corporations from around America will be on Capitol Hill, giving a chance for Members and staff to hear directly from these employee owners how their investment and hard work facilitated by this unique ownership helps create jobs and helps their employee owners prepare for retirement; how they expanded jobs here in America, even in this difficult environment.

In 2008, for instance, ESOP increased employment 2 percent, while our economy overall shed almost 3 percent of the jobs. Employee-owned business wages increased at twice the national average. Each company is a unique American success story. That's why I hope you will join me in cosponsoring H.R. 3586, the ESOP Promotion and Expansion Act, to protect and enhance employee-owned corporations.

CONGRATULATING ALLEN AMERICANS HOCKEY TEAM

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Today, I'd like to congratulate the players and coaches of the Allen Americans Hockey

Team for capturing the Southern Conference championship title. This is the first time a first-season team has accomplished this. After a stellar inaugural, winning season, the minor league hockey team earned a slot in the playoffs. They won two playoff series against Laredo and Odessa. Their final postseason game against the Rapid City Rush ended in a double overtime battle. It's no surprise they sent four players up to the American Hockey League.

The Allen Americans play at the Allen Event Center, and folks should be proud to have such an accomplished, dedicated team representing their community. I've seen them—and they're good. I had the privilege of cheering on the Americans last season and I look forward to attending more games in the future.

I wish the team and its players all the best. Congratulations. God bless you. I salute you. As the fans like to cheer: Dread the Red!

ECONOMY TRENDING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, this is a chart prepared by the Joint Economic Committee, which I call the V chart—not for victory, or total victory, but it certainly shows success and that we're trending in the right direction in our economy. The red bars on the chart represent the job losses under the prior administration. The last month of the Bush administration, this country lost over 770,000 jobs. The blue bars represent the record of the Obama administration as we recover from the depths of an inherited economic disaster.

There is still much left to do as we recover from the great recession. Millions of Americans still suffer. But if we wish to avoid repeating history, we should first remember and understand it. The policies of the past drove our economy down. The policies of this Congress have begun to lift it up. You can see it here very clearly in a V and in red, white, and blue.

OPTING OUT OF ANOTHER GOVERNMENT MANDATE

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, last week, Governor Bobby Jindal announced that Louisiana, along with 16 other States, would not participate in the government takeover of health care's temporary high risk pools. I commend Governor Jindal on this decision and for having the foresight not to put Louisiana on the hook for yet another tax-increasing, job-killing, unfunded mandate, and subjecting our citizens to more Federal inefficiency and bureaucracy.

While I have always supported the concept of high risk pools, this effort

will thrust the burden onto the backs of Louisiana taxpayers, eventually saddling them with another federally mandated program they can ill afford. Louisianans have made it clear that they are sick and tired of carrying the water for an ever-expanding Federal Government. I commend our Governor for doing the right thing for our State and our country.

END KARZAI'S WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Afghan President Karzai is in Washington this week seeking another \$33 billion to keep the war going, meeting with the White House to present his so-called "peace proposal" to allocate \$160 million from international donors to fund new government bodies, pay off insurgents who agree to stop fighting, and to undermine efforts to establish local governance.

Ranked the second most corrupt government in the world, only behind Somalia, Mr. Karzai's blatant government corruption, his ties to Big Oil, and his ties to Afghanistan's most notorious drug pushers, including his own brother, is no secret. While he's being treated as royalty in Washington, millions of dollars shuffle through Kabul Airport, unaccounted for, as Mr. Karzai builds villas in Dubai. Meanwhile, I have constituents in Cleveland who are struggling to stay in their homes.

The longer this charade of nation building and counterinsurgency strategy in Afghanistan continues, the more U.S. soldiers and innocent Afghan civilians die. He wants \$33 billion for war to continue in Afghanistan. Here at home, Americans need jobs and access to education and health care. Billions would be better spent rebuilding America than sending it to Afghanistan to continue a war.

Bring our troops home. End the war.

NETWORKS SHOW BIAS ON ARIZONA IMMIGRATION LAW

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, television network news stories about Arizona immigration enforcement law have been overwhelmingly negative, according to a new analysis by the Media Research Center. From April 23 to May 3, negative news reports on ABC, CBS, and NBC outnumbered positive reports by a margin of 12 to 1. This kind of extreme bias is a danger to democracy. And nowhere is it more evident than in reporting about immigration.

Only 10 percent of network reports acknowledged that a majority of Americans support the Arizona law and that